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**Travel Guidelines for Participants**

**Africa RISING Program Strategy Workshop**

**6-8 October 2015, Bamako, Mali**

Find more information about the meeting please look at:

<http://africa-rising.wikispaces.com/AR-strategy2015>

The list of participants – as is known for now – is available [here](http://africa-rising.wikispaces.com/file/view/Bamako%20list%20of%20participants.xlsx/558447031/Bamako%20list%20of%20participants.xlsx) and as appendix to this document.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO HOTEL AND VENUE**

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On arrival at Bamako-Sénou International Airport, participants will be welcomed by an ICRISAT driver/airport assistant wearing an ICRISAT cap and having a placard with the following logo/message “ICRISAT – Science with a human face” – see the ICRISAT logo below.



Airport picks up and transfer arrangements have been made for all participants who had shared their travel itineraries with the meeting organizers well in advance. In case you miss the pickup service please take a taxi to the hotel.

The Africa RISING Program Strategy Workshop will take place at the MAIN CONFERENCE HALL of Azalai Salam Hotel.

**COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

You will need to produce the documents below at immigration.

* A valid passport
* An invitation letter
* A valid visa
* A valid Yellow Fever Card (This is mandatory for all participants and cannot be excused)

**TRANSPORT DETAILS AND AIR TICKETS**

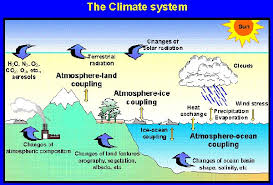
Participants who arranged flight booking themselves are requested to share their flight itinerary with Marc Traoré [m.traore@icrisatml.org](mailto:m.traore@icrisatml.org) and Seydou Sankare [s.sankare@icrisatml.org](mailto:s.sankare@icrisatml.org) to facilitate airport transfer to/from the hotel.

**REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**

Reimbursement and per diem will be covered as follows:

* For IFPRI, IITA, ILRI staff: Your own offices should organize the per-diems for all of you. Please liaise with Carlo Azzarri (IFPRI), Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon (IITA) or Simret Yasabu (ILRI).
* For all other participants: You will receive per diems during the workshop at the rate of USD 30 / day. Please make sure you have your boarding pass which we require when we settle your claims. If you are claiming for a visa and airport transport please make sure you present the receipts for reimbursement.

Lunches will be provided by Africa RISING to all participants on 6, 7 and 8 October and a reception will be provided by Africa RISING to all participants on Wednesday 7 October. Breakfast is included for all hotel guests. Per-diems will cover the other meals.

**CLIMATE AND CLOTHING**

The average temperature in Bamako in October is hot at 27.5 °C (81.5 °F). Afternoons can be very, very hot with average high temperatures reaching 34 °C (93.2 °F). Overnight temperatures are generally warm with an average low of 21 °C (69.8 °F).

Light clothing is recommended.

Read more: <http://www.bamako.climatemps.com/october.php#ixzz3lDkMMvRh>

**ACCOMMODATION**

Participants from outside Bamako will be lodged at Azalai Salam Hotel. With reference to invitations, accommodation costs will be covered by the meeting organizers.

Detail contact of the hotel is as follows:

Azalai Hotel Salam

Quartier de Fleuve

B.P 104

Tel : +22320221400

Fax: +22320223637

E-mail: [azalaihotelsalam@azalaihotels.com](mailto:azalaihotelsalam@azalaihotels.com)

Maiga Ousmane: Chef de Reception Pi

Mail Reception: [receptionahs@azalaihotels.com](mailto:receptionahs@azalaihotels.com)

Arrangements at Azalai Salam Hotel include breakfast and lunch for all participants with accommodation at the hotel. Non hotel resident participants will be served lunch only.

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Azalai Salam Hotel restaurant, while tea breaks will be served at the outside the Goto Hall.

Please note Azalai Salam Hotel accepts the following payment methods: VISA and American Express. Cash payment is also possible.

**CURRENCY /BANK**

The official currency in Mali is the CFA Franc BCEAO (abbreviated as XOF). As of 9 September 2015 the indicative exchange rate is USD 1 = XOF 587.857. The euro is at a fixed rate of EUR 1 = XOF 655.957

Major foreign currencies (USD, EURO, and GBP) can be exchanged at the international airport, banks and bureaus de change. It is advisable to carry Euros, US Dollars or Pounds Sterling.



**SECURITY**

As in most major international cities, sensible security measures should be observed. Bamako has its share of personal security problems like street mugging; therefore you are advised to take necessary precautions to avoid being the victim of crime:

* Leave your valuables at the hotel reception and only carry a small amount of money.
* Hire a recommended taxi if you wish to move around at night and for your personal safety, avoid dark deserted lanes and street.
* Do not respond to strangers accosting you outside the compound or in the street.
* Do not walk far from Azalai Salam Hotel at night.



ICRISAT security chief informed members that Bamako security situation is fine at the moment. However there is a need to take extra caution, i.e not to travel outside the meeting hotel after 7PM.

He further clarified that Azalai Hotel Salam is one of the MINUSMA’s (The UN International Mission for Stabilization of Mali) recommended place to conduct international meetings in Bamako.

**HEALTH/VACCINATION CERTIFICATE**

All visitors travelling to Mali should have a valid International Certificate of Vaccination against yellow fever.

**Malaria** **Prevention:** Because visitors travelling to Mali are at high risk of contracting malaria, it is advisable to take anti-malaria medication prior to arrival, during your stay and for a short time after returning home.

In addition, take other personal protective measures, such as the use of insect repellents and long-sleeved clothes to reduce malaria risk.

**FIRST AID FACILITY**

Azalai Salam Hotel has a first aid kit facility at the reception and it is open for 24 hrs. In case of any health problem, please dial extension number 600

**INTERNET SERVICES**

Wireless internet service is freely available at Azalai Salam Hotel.

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

For any administrative/security support, please contact:

**Marc Traoré**

Cell phone**:** +223 76303234

**Birhanu Zemadim**

Cell phone**:** +223 90493223

**Seydou Sankare**

Cell phone**:** +223 66723438

**Bila Belemgoabga**

Cell phone**:** +223 71479123

**Batta A Maiga**

Cell phone**:** +223 76442341

We look forward to welcoming you to Bamako, Mali.

For more information about the meeting please see: <http://africa-rising.wikispaces.com/AR-strategy2015>